

but interestingly enough a judge is something other than a human. A judge is the state's dispenser of justice and law. Why do you suppose that the judges in England, before they mount the bench, put on the wig? Why do you suppose the judges in England, before they mount the bench, put on the ermine robe? Is it because they want to wear the wig? Is it because they want to wear the ermine robe? No, it is because it is important that they carry with them the symbolism and the symbolism is that they are simply ministers dispensing the Queen's mercy or the King's justice. They are the symbols of the state dispensing justice and mercy. Now what we do when we establish a system, when we establish a system that allows a judge who is a human being and who commits those same sins and omissions that I commit and Senator DeCamp commits in spades, who allows such a judge to be exposed publicly for those omissions and commissions is that we detract from what the real issue is and the real issue is the judge, as one of our functionaries dispensing justice, to the extent we permit the judge to be torn down by his or her own weaknesses publicly, we erode the kind of respect that we need to have for a judge. Interestingly enough the only thing that supports law in our society today is respect, not for the human, but for the law, for the institution. That is the basic supporter of law in today's society and when we find humans with shortcomings, which we do all the time, we need to make certain that the shortcomings can be correctable and we have that in the Judicial Qualifications Commission. But if in the process of correcting the shortcomings we tear away at the support for the law and the institutions, we do more than criticize the man or woman. We weaken the law and the institutions. Now I can appreciate WOOT's desire to know and I certainly can appreciate the Lincoln Journal's desire to know. It has had that desire to know about the judiciary for a number of years now because I think it has a hard spot in its heart for the judiciary.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: And I can appreciate our own desire to see exposed the weaknesses of our judiciary but I guarantee